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World Summit on Sustainable Development

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Agenda item 8
Partnership events

Summaries of the partnership events

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Comments of the Chairperson concerning the partnership plenary sessions on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB)

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the World Summit on Sustainable Development the comments of the Chairperson, Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (South Africa), on the six partnership plenary sessions held during the Summit, from 26 to 28 August, on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB).

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Comments of the Chairperson, Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (South Africa), on the partnership plenary sessions on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity

1. The central task of our deliberations at the World Summit on Sustainable Development is to take stock of the successes and failures of the past 10 years and agree on clear and practical measures to implement sustainable development. In our collective efforts to move from commitments to action to ensure more sustainable livelihoods for all, water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) represent five specific areas in which concrete results are both essential and achievable. These and other important areas of implementation should be seen against the urgent need to mobilize the necessary cross-cutting means of implementation.

2. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the experts who collaborated in the preparation of the implementation framework papers and for their presentations. Their inputs, as well as those of the major groups, were of a high quality, which in turn enhanced our dialogue during our interactive sessions. I would also like to thank the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Summit, Jan Pronk, who did an exceptional job in moderating this rich dialogue, as well as all the participants.

3. The innovative nature of these discussions should be encouraged as a model for enhanced multi-stakeholder participation and engagement within the United Nations system. This is the time for concrete action, and all who can and should play a role should be able to engage fully and at all levels with each other and with the modalities of implementation in the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit.

4. The process started by the implementation frameworks should harness the resources and technologies at our disposal, in Governments and in all major groups, towards real implementation, in the spirit of partnership, equitable participation and mutual benefit. The concrete initiatives and partnerships announced by some delegations are welcomed, and we will make available to all delegates a systematic list of all initiatives that have been proposed during the Summit. All must look forward to more specific announcements during the remainder of the Summit.

5. The results of our deliberations will be made available in the form of a Chairperson's summary (A/CONF.199/16/Add.2). It is hoped that this will assist delegations in the further implementation of sustainable development and follow-up to outcomes agreed in Johannesburg.

6. The key highlights from each partnership plenary session included the following common themes:

- The need for sound policies and strategies, and for proper consultation with all affected members of communities, in policy formulation and decision-making for sustainable development.
- The need to build and strengthen partnerships not only among Governments but also with women, youth, indigenous peoples, NGOs, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers.
- The need for capacity-building and technology sharing.

- The mobilization of additional resources to achieve systematic and predictable funding.
- The need for practical programmes and actions, with clear, time-bound targets and time frames, as well as a well coordinated system of measurement, monitoring and reporting.
- The need for infrastructure development.
- The need to improve institutional frameworks for better implementation and participation, particularly by vulnerable groups.

7. There should be a strong focus on follow-up from all parties involved, keeping in mind that WEHAB is an initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The WEHAB frameworks would be part of the implementation process of the proposed plan of implementation of the Summit. It is thus proposed that the Summit invite the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with all relevant and interested Governments and parties to translate the frameworks into action through a flexible action-oriented process.